

PETER RATCLIFFE SIMPSON (K32-40)

Peter died on 8 July 2017 aged 94 with his widow Hetta and 2 sons at his bedside. He had suffered a bad fall 7 days earlier. He is one of 29 Simpsons over 5 generations starting from the very first day the school opened in 1865, to have attended the College. He was our 10th oldest living OF and brother of Commander John Simpson (K32-36) our 2nd oldest living OF who lives in Framlingham.

His widow Hetta sent the following note out :

My dear friends

My darling Peter died on Saturday 8th August at 2.42am having spent the day listening (we know he could hear us) to Tim (his eldest son) and new wife, Trish, Hugo (youngest son) and his partner, Kathy and myself at his bedside with our arms around him He died very peacefully with me giving him a last hug and kiss and telling him I loved him always. The certificate said pneumonia brought on after suffering a dreadful fall seven days earlier which broke his poor nose, gashed his head and blacked his eyes. Nobody of 94 years could stand a massive blow to the head like that. We were assured that he was not in pain but as he was heavily drugged, he could not speak to us.



For the previous 11 months Peter had been in permanent residential care in the high dependency unit of a very well-managed care facility. The nursing staff and aids loved him dearly and many of them have rung me up to express their shock and dismay that he has left us. As I really 'lost him' so many months ago to a long slow memory loss going back to 2010 the loss has not hit me yet.....it will and I will be helpless.

Peter was very well liked and respected by all who met him and he was the love of my life. We did everything together and had the happiest of times.....we were very intellectually compatible too – he was my 'Google' he had a fine mind and joined me in a passion for swimming, art, antiques, travelling, eating, drinking etc. he would do anything for me and I for him – he was such fun and aptly named, Peter – the Rock.

I have arranged a farewell, dedication and remembrance for SATURDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2017 at THE COASTGUARD STATION, MUNNA POINT, NOOSAVILLE 4566 Qld. 1100hrs. It is a beautiful spot looking out towards the entrance to the Noosa River. Some months ago I purchased 2 spots on a Memorial wall facing the estuary. The plaque will take 6 weeks to make – hence the delay. I will have Michael's (his twin brother) name and rank and dod under Peters on the same plaque. The other spot will be for me when I join him. We will have a few wines and the girls will all pitch in with some nice nibbles in true Aussie style. Please come and say Goodbye if you can make it. (I know our lovely friends in UK cannot be there but you will be in my thoughts – you all looked after us both wonderfully well and our memories are for ever)

Peter was cremated privately on Friday 14th July and his ashes will be taken out and scattered on the beautiful Noosa River.

He had a wonderful 94 years (32 of them with me)

With my love Hetta x

The service took place on Saturday 23 September 2017 at The Coastguard Station, Munna Point, Noosaville, Queensland, Australia. It was a great day, lovely sunshine, not too hot & most enjoyable. John Gates (S44-48) picked up Peter Bailey (K34-38) at about 9.15am and got him home about 1.45pm.

The day started with Hetta Simpson and her family aboard the Coast Guard vessel *John Waddams* passing out through the mouth of the Noosa River to scatter Peter's ashes in the Pacific Ocean.



Hetta comes back from scattering the ashes, with eldest son Tim.



Below is the order of service

ORDER OF COMMEMORATION SERVICE

1. INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND THANK PEOPLE FOR COMING

2. INTRODUCE TRISH AND SHE WILL LIGHT THE CANDLES AND READ OUT THE PRAYER

Trish sits down

3. INTRODUCE FIRST SPEAKER: OLD FRAMLINGHAMIAN, PROF. NEVILLE MARSH

Neville will say a few words about the O.F.'s and introduce WING CDR. PETER BAILEY who will say a few words about their schooldays.

4. INTRODUCE ASA HENRY (Hetta's grandson and Peter's step grandson)

Asa will talk a little about Peter's war service and read out the extract from Digger Yeates account of the Battle of the Atlantic

5. INTRODUCE GLEN ELMES M.P. MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Who may wish to say something about Peter's links with the LNP

6. INTRODUCE GRAHAM COOPER - President of Noosa (2010) Combined Probus Club

Graham may wish to say a few words

7. Call for anyone else from the assembly (Coast Guard – David Gillis may say something)

Finish off the speeches - with :

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN LET US COMMEND PETER'S SOUL TO THE SAFE KEEPING OF OUR
MERCIFUL FATHER

God our creator and redeemer,

By your power Christ conquered death

And entered into glory.

We entrust Peter to your mercy

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The following is the address that Neville gave :

My wife, Alison and I have known Peter and Hetta for a good 20 years. We met simply because Peter and I went to the same school in England – a boarding school in a sleepy Suffolk town called Framlingham. It's called a public school which, in a strange perverse English way, means a private school.

Of course, Peter was at Fram 20 years before me and was a member of an absolute dynasty – five generations of his family went to the school beginning with George Henry Simpson, the very first pupil to enrol in 1865. I went through with Peter's nephew Jeremy in the 1960s and the total number of Simpsons going to Fram now stands at 30, with 13 in the fifth generation.

Now us Old Boys stick together and we have met from time to time over those 20 years so it comes as no surprise that we have three here today to farewell Peter. In addition to myself, we have John Gates, who was at school from 1944 to 1948 and most importantly Peter Bailey, who was Peter Simpson's dorm (dormitory) mate in the 1930s. Peter, thanks so much for coming today (and John for organising transport) and sharing in this celebration. At the grand age of 95 years young, we applaud you. You will see that Peter and I have our old school ties on – wide stripes of chocolate brown and Cambridge blue but Peter Simpson's tie on the table of memorabilia is the much more distinguished narrow stripe tie – Peter always had class! Our fourth Queensland Old Boy, Chris Shaw and his wife Rebecca from Cairns can't be with us but send their apologies: I am sure they are present in spirit.

We share some wonderful memories from 2015, when the Old Boys of Australia and New Zealand gathered in the Hunter Valley, a reunion organised with military precision by Chris Shaw and fellow OF Mike Garnett. Both Peters were in top form and regaled us with stories of Kerrison Boarding House from the '30s putting names to faces on fading photographs. The weekend ended in absolute cyclonic weather: were it not for Hetta's rally driving and my navigation, we would not have got back to Newcastle Airport safely. Hugo, Peter's youngest son rescued Hetta and Peter from the airport, their flight back to the Sunshine Coast being cancelled, and put them up for a couple of nights. Nonetheless, it was a weekend to cherish.

Hetta and family: sadly, we have all lost Peter: husband, father and grandfather. He was your 'Google' with a fine mind and sharing your passion for swimming, art, antiques, travelling, eating and drinking ... the list goes on! I know he would do anything for you and you for him – he was such fun and aptly named, Peter – the Rock.

In addition to these qualities, Peter was an officer and a gentleman, and a role model for any Old Framlinghamian regarding duty, integrity and commitment. The College has produced some outstanding citizens who contribute hugely and selflessly for the betterment of the world around them. Peter was one of these, and we salute him.

Vale – Peter Ratcliffe Simpson

With thanks to Chris Shaw for letting me plagiarise his address

Below are some of the photos taken by John Gates (S44-48) and Neville Marsh (S53-61).

Neville Marsh giving his talk. Also pictured are Hetta and Peter Bailey.



Peter Bailey standing up & talking- thanking everybody and giving his own reminiscences of Fram.



This is a lovely one of 3 Old Framlinghamians & Hetta Simpson. It's been noted that John Gates does not have his OF tie on!



OFs and partners. Hetta is holding photographs of Peter Simpson and his twin brother Michael



Peter Bailey talking, with Hetta Simpson sitting and eldest son Tim listening



This one is John Gates and Peter Bailey seated.



The final three photos from Neville show the Noosa Coast Guard memorial wall which will have the final plaque for Peter and Michael Simpson – the one pictured is a temporary one while the actual brass plaque is made. The view will be Peter and Michael looking out to sea as Hetta wanted.

